

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RIYADH 00148 130716Z  
ACTION H-03

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 66  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USLO RIYADH 0148

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (CODEL STONE)  
SUBJECT: SENATOR STONE'S AUDIENCE WITH KING KHALID (PART II)

FROM CHARGE'

FOR AMBASSADOR PICKERING FROM SENATOR STONE

REF: USLO 0147

1. AT END OF MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSION WITH KING KHALID  
(REFTEL) SENATOR STONE ASKED KING'S INDULGENCE IN RAISING  
A QUESTION IF IMPORTANCE, BUT ALSO ONE WHICH INVOLVED AN  
ISSUE OF SOME DELICACY. HIS MAJESTY ASKED THAT HE PROCEED.  
SENATOR STONE SAID THAT WHILE HE HAD BEEN IN JORDAN,  
IT HAD BEEN MENTIONED TO HIM (ESPECIALLY BY WEST BANKERS)  
THAT THEIR FELLOW MUSLIMS IN ISRAEL WISHED TO BE ABLE TO  
COMPLETE THEIR RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS, AND TO PARTICIPATE  
IN THE PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA. SENATOR STONE WAS AWARE OF  
THE APPARENT ANOMALY IN THE NON-MUSLIM RAISING SUCH A MATTER  
WITH THE IMAM OF THE MUSLIMS; HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE  
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PAGE 02 RIYADH 00148 130716Z

WAS CONVEYING AN APPEAL THAT HAD BEEN MADE TO HIM BY  
PALESTINIAN MUSLIMS. IT WAS THE SENATOR'S OWN OPINION  
THAT IF HIS MAJESTY COULD ACCEDE TO SUCH A REQUEST,  
THERE WOULD BE A VERY POSITIVE REACTION IN ISRAEL AND  
ON THE WEST BANK. SUCH AN ACTION WOULD HELP TO CREATE  
--AT THE LEVEL OF OPINION AND OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ATTITUDES THAT EACH PEOPLE HELD OF THE OTHER-- A

FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND FUTURE ACCOMMODATIONS. THE SENATOR NOTED ALSO THAT SINCE THE KINGDOM PERMITTED MUSLIMS FROM THE AGGRESSIVE AND ATHEISTIC UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO MAKE THE PILGRIMAGE, HE BELIEVED THERE WAS A GOOD LOGICAL AND RELIGIOUS ARGUMENT THAT COULD BE MADE ON BEHALF OF ARAB MUSLIMS IN ISRAEL.

2. AN ANIMATED EXCHANGE THEN TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE KING AND HIS ADVISORS. THE KING SAID THERE WAS NO PROBLEM. HE HAD TWO PALESTINIAN SEAMSTRESSES IN HIS OWN HOUSE WHO EACH YEAR TRAVELLED BACK TO THE WEST BANK OF ISRAEL. ZAKI YAMANI SAID THE SENATOR WAS SPEAKING OF WEST BANKERS, AND THAT MANY WEST BANKERS WERE ALREADY COMING TO THE KINGDOM EACH YEAR ON PILGRIMAGE. ROYAL COUNSELOR PHARONE SAID YAMANI HAD IT WRONG: SENATOR STONE WAS SPEAKING OF MUSLIMS IN ISRAEL PROPER, SUCH AS THOSE IN HAIFA AND NAZERETH. PRINCE ABDULLAH SAID, "WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?" HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT UNDER A PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND MUNICIPALITIES, ISRAELI MUSLIMS COULD DEPOSIT THEIR PAPERS WITH THE JORDANIAN AUTHORITIES, AND FROM THEM RECEIVE A LAISSEZ-PASSER. WITH SUCH A DOCUMENT THEY COULD COME TO SAUDI ARABIA, PERFORM THE PILGRIMAGE, AND RETURN HOME IN THE SAME MANNER AS THEY CAME. THE KING THEN REPEATED THIS TO SENATOR STONE VIA THE ROYAL INTERPRETER.

3. THE SENATOR SAID THAT HE GATHERED THE WEST BANKERS HAD IN MIND VISITS BY ISRAELI MUSLIMS IN CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS. BUSLOADS FULL MIGHT COME, AND THE JORDANIAN SAUTHORITIES HAD INDICATED THAT THEY COULD PROVIDE ASSURANCES ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 RIYADH 00148 130716Z

THE AUTHENTIC AND SINCERE RELIGIOUS INTENT OF ALL THOSE MAKING THE PILGRIMAGE. THE SENATOR ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY LIMITATIONS THAT HIS MAJESTY OR HIS GOVERNMENT MIGHT PLACE ON THE NUMBERS OF SUCH VISITORS. PRINCE ABDULLAH SAID "NONE AT ALL." THE KING REPLIED THERE WOULD BE NO LIMITATION ON SUCH PILGRIMS. PRINCE ABDULLAH SAID THE KINGDOM ONLY IMPOSED SOME NUMERICAL RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN MAJOR SOURCES OF PILGRIMS, SUCH AS IRAN OR TURKEY. WITHOUT SOME LIMIT -- IN THE FEW HUNDRED THOUSAND RANGE-- THESE COUNTRIES COULD SERIOUSLY OVERLOAD THE VERY LIMITED PHYSICAL ACCOMODATIONS AVAILABLE FOR CROWDS THAT EACH YEAR EXCEEDED 1.5 MILLION.

4. THE SENATOR THANKED KING KHALID FOR THE MAGNANIMITY HE HAD SHOWN IN PERMITTING HIM TO RAISE SUCH A DELICATE TOPIC, AND FOR THE GENEROSITY OF HIS REPLY. THE KING LAUGHED. HE SAID HE WAS GLAD THE SENATOR HAD RAISED THE SUBJECT, BECAUSE PEOPLE WERE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT THE NARROW AND UNGENEROUS SAUDI VIEW OF THEIR RELIGIONS. NOW

THE SENATOR COULD SEE FOR HIMSELF HOW WRONG THESE CRITICS OF ISLAM AND SAUDI ARABIA WERE. THE SENATOR SAID HE WOULD CONVEY THE KING'S MESSAGE TO HIS JORDANIAN FRIENDS.

5. COMMENT: SENATOR STONE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF AMBASSADOR PICKERING COULD PASS ON THE FOREGOING CONVERSATION TO KING HUSSEIN. SUBSEQUENTLY HE WILL ALSO APPRISE SOME OF HIS ACQUAINTANCES IN ISRAEL OF THIS DISCUSSION WITH KING KHALID.

6. MESSAGE CLEARED WITH SENATOR.  
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